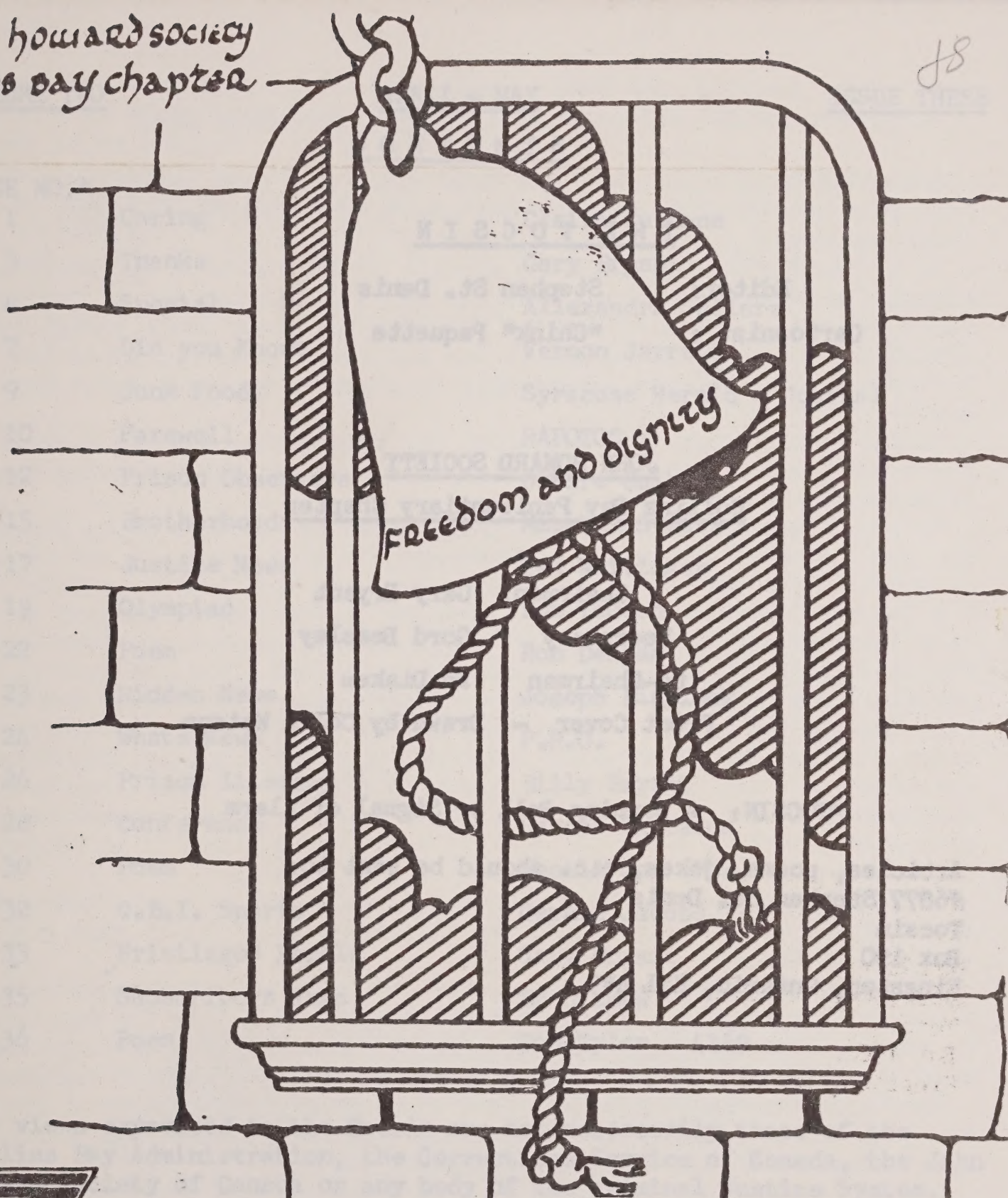


John Howard Society
Collins Bay Chapter

JB



Joesin

LATE
SUMMER
1982

July

T H E T O C S I N

Editor: Stephen St. Denis
Cartoonist : "Chink" Paquette

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

Collins Bay Penitentiary Chapter

Chairman: Gary Bryant
Secretary : Gord Beasley
Co-Chairman : Ed Diakew
Front Cover - Drawn by Colin Watson

*TOCSIN: A Warning Bell or Signal of Alarm

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The views expressed in the Tocsin are not necessarily those of the Collins Bay Administration, the Corrections Service of Canada, the John Howard Society of Canada or any body of the criminal Justice System.

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CARING

Humanist in Canada 1982

According to my dictionary "to care" means "to feel anxiety, to feel interest; to give care (to the sick); to be concerned about (what happens)."

To be invited to contribute an article to OFF THE WALL (prisoner's magazine at Mountain Prison, Agassiz, B.C.) on the subject of CARING could indicate a sense of anxiety that perhaps there isn't enough caring around the place, while to accept the invitation also indicates (on the writer's part) a welcome opportunity to share in whatever those anxieties may be.

Caring should start with and about the very young. Reading Hansard (House of Commons Debates) this week I came across the following contribution by Gordon Taylor, MP.

"I went through a correctional institution in Edmonton a few years ago and I checked the number of students who were there. It was my belief at least 40 per cent of those young people who had come in conflict with the law were there because they either had a learning disability or were slow learners and they had never been diagnosed as such, or ever helped... boys from 14 to 17 were just learning how to read...some parents do not realize their child has a hearing or a sight disability which can hold them back to the point at which they can no longer catch up with their peers, so they become outcasts and find other friends...serving time in our penitentiaries today are excellent people who are there because of circumstances, because they made a mistake and everyone assumed they were criminals...because a boy (or a girl) makes one mistake is no reason for them to spend the rest of their life as a criminal."

Robert Wenman, another MP in the same debate, pointed out that when he was a school teacher, in a group of 25 young people (13-15 year old and in grade 8) he found:

"They were not going anywhere...some were slow some had emotional problems, some were just cowering and frightened...but they had one thing in common, they were all rejects by every element of our society...we need to establish community service programs and restitution agreements."

Here's hoping that our politicians care enough to make this a living fact in every community, not just a wish and a prayer. And if they don't, that there are enough voters to make them care.

Caring is objecting to children being fingerprinted and photographed if picked up by police and taken to a police station.

Caring is reading through the Youth Offenders Act and finding the recommendation of the "destruction of the criminal record after a qualifying period of good behavior".

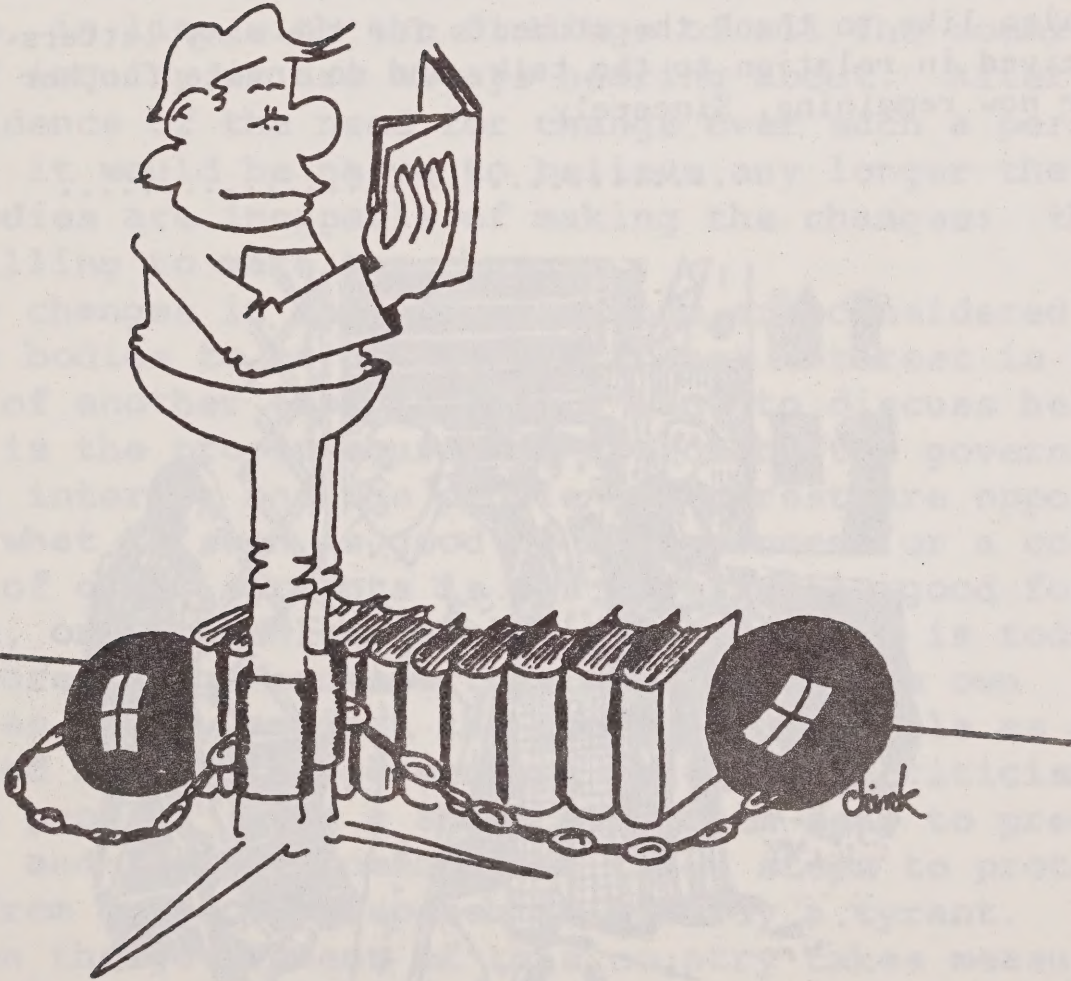
The Quakers believe that it is only in a caring society that "corporate

cont...

and individual redemption can take place...that the dominant culture is more in need of 'correction' than the prisoners. The caring community has yet to be built."

It's a challenge to each of us - to start building those 'caring communities' wherever we live, and have done with the 'I'm all right Jack/Jill philosophy.'

by Claire Culhane (PRG)



Gary Bryant
Chairman J.H.S.

I would like to say thankyou to Mr. Terry Murphy & Doug Williamson of Frontenac Secondary School and all the students that gave me their time and patience to listen to a talk at the school on the alternatives to incarceration, the John Howard's function and the lifestyles of inmates serving time in a Federal Prison.

I personally feel that the time spent at the school was well used and that the students showed much interest and curtiouisy. I only hope that this sort of program can continue in the schools in this and the surrounding area. I'm certain that everyone concerned would agree that it is a much needed and valuable program to educate the public on the Penitentiary System and that there is indeed alternatives to incarceration.

I would also like to thank the students for the many letters that we here have received in relation to the talk, and do invite further inquiries. I close for now remaining, Sincerely.

.....



" He's on Parole "

SPECIAL TO TOCSIN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Alexandra Sellers is a free-lance writer based in Toronto. The opinions expressed here are not those of the Collins Bay Chapter, but are presented in the belief that a citizen's view of the Society is always of interest to us.

VIEW FROM AN OUTSIDER

It is manifestly not in the interest of the government and the justice system and the correctional service of this country to reform the law and the prison system. If it were, such reform would have been instituted long ago, in line with the findings of all the commissions of inquiry we are always hearing about. After such evidence of the need for change over such a period of time, it would be naive to believe any longer that those bodies are incapable of making the changes: they are unwilling to make the changes.

Why changes in the prison system are considered by those bodies to be not in their best interest is the subject of another essay. What I want to discuss here is what is the proper course of action by the government when its interest and the people's interest are opposed. Because what is seen as good by a government or a collection of civil servants is not necessarily good for a people, or Lech Walesa wouldn't be where he is today.

Beware the government that adheres to its own good as an entity against the good of the people as a whole, and beware the government that fears criticism from the people. It's a short step from fear to prevention, and the government that takes steps to protect itself from freedom of speech is already a tyrant.

When the government of this country takes measures of any nature to stifle the free criticism of itself

by any of its people, we must all sit up and take notice. A branch of the civil service that cuts funding to a charitable organization because that organization endorses change is not functioning as the proper servant of democracy, no matter how little the bureaucracy wants to be forced to make those changes.

The government of a free country which serves a people, a very large number of whom have voted for other parties, should not be presuming to fund only those institutions which treat its own policies as sacrosanct. The tradition of Loyal Opposition is not, after all, confined to Parliament Hill. Furthermore, as well as their salaries, the funding that civil servants and politicians so magnanimously provide comes entirely out of the taxpayers' purse. In the last election, of the 70% of eligible voters who actually voted, only 43.9% voted for the Liberal party. The 56% who voted against Mr. Trudeau make up approximately 46% of the eligible voters. That means that at least 46% of the money being disbursed by the federal government came from taxpayers who actively oppose the present government and its policies.

Those taxpayers have the right to see their involuntary charitable donations made to groups whose activities they approve of, even when the government and the civil service do not.

According to the newspaper reports, the John Howard Society - like one or two other critics of the government just now - seems to be unpopular these days with the Feds. Of course, it's good for prisoners and ex-prisoners to have someone in their corner rabbit-punching Leviathan into some awareness of the terrible necessity of making major changes in the infamous prison system of this country. It's also good for society as a whole, for obvious reasons that

have been expressed over and over.

But criticism of the government by any of the people, beyond and distinct from the particular direction of the criticism, is of itself good for the people. Particularly the Canadian people at this time.

The tyrannous arrogance that many of us have deplored in Mr. Trudeau and his Cabinet has been percolating down through the fabric of the government and the civil service of this country over the years until it is now a flood. All of our public servants badly need the exercise of public criticism to remind them that we are still a free society, and that we have the right to freely criticise the government, whether or not we are employed or funded by that government.

Wild animals and tyrannous governments tend to separate their victim from the general population before bringing him down. It would be a very good thing for freedom in this country if the people did not allow this to happen to the John Howard Society or any part of it.

Alexandra Sellers

A MALNOURISHED BRAIN CAN

EASILY BECOME A CRIMINAL BRAIN

by Vernon Jarrett
Chicago Tribune

If we Americans (and Canadians) are truly appalled by the growth of wanton violence in this land, we will do more than become upset only when a prominent person is the victim or when violence touches our personal lives.

At some point in our anguish we should realize that violence is more than a gun fired by an assassin, or stickup artist, or ghetto youngster trying to imitate a gangster.

The truth is, there is a pervasive violence committed daily by millions of Americans who wouldn't dare aim a Saturday-night special at another human being.

The violence they perpetrate seems less shocking than the assassination of a President or civilrights leader because we are removed from the scene of the crime. Their brutality cannot be shown in a fast-action, split-second replay on television. Yet it is more destructive than anything we have read about in recent weeks.

If you want to meet people who are concerned about violence every day of their lives, visit Focus Hope, a civil-rights and charitable organization on Detroit's northwest side. The founders of Focus Hope were so concerned about "violence" that they declared war on malnutrition among expectant mothers and infants 13 years ago.

Focus Hope's 22,000 volunteers are hard at work daily feeding 40,000 people who live below the poverty line.

What has food got to do with willful violence? Listen a moment to Eleanor Josaitis, a co-founder and associate director of Focus Hope.

"When we insist that a child-bearing mother receives the proper nutrients, we are, indeed, fighting crime. When we see to it that a child is properly fed - regardless of who is to blame for his or her poverty we are fighting crime.

"We can't afford to manufacture more and more damaged brains because of low nutrients in a mother or a child while our farmers can produce more food than they can sell. A brain damaged in the womb by malnutrition cannot be repaired.

"Even the most unsympathetic person must understand that. It is no longer a question of what welfare mother may be cheating or not cheating or the whereabouts of the father. We've got to save the minds of all children or we may lose their souls."

Mrs. Josaitis' humanitarianism is supported by scientific research. Several years ago, Psychology Today ran a stunning article by Roger

cont...

Lewis entitled "Starved Brains." It should be required reading for every American.

The article said that "an infant deprived of nutrition or stimulation will never develop to full mental capacity. There is no second chance... Without the necessary flow of nutrients, the brain simply cannot create the structures, the cells, the wiring and the complex circuits "required to function normally.

Fifty percent of a person's lifetime brain growth takes place during the first year, the article said. I've heard this statement from many psychiatrists and neurosurgeons. If I am to take seriously the reported growth in the crime rate, I have to take such scientific observations into consideration too.

Mrs. Josaitis finds it an alarming contradiction that many of the sopkesmen for "law and order" are also among the strongest advocates of budget cuts against government supported programs.

"In Wayne Couty alone there are 125,000 people living below poverty," according to Mrs. Josaitis and the Rev. William T. Cunningham, a Catholic priest who also is co-founder of Focus Hope, and its director.

Focus Hope estimates that there may be 130,000 malnourished mothers and children in Detroit. "And just think of what the national figure could be. It's frightening," Mrs. Josaitis said.

One does not have to be a bleeding heart liberal to understand the impact of this data. The real shocker is this: When a child suffers a lack of nutrition from birth through his first three years, the brain is permanently damaged and the intelligence quotient (I.Q.) is lowered 10 to 15 per cent.

Mrs. Josaitis, Father Cunningham and their volunteers can't understand how people can be opposes to violence yet urge cuts in aid to the hungry.

They are convinced that a malnourished brain can easily become a criminal brain. And in these times when even the healthiest of brains go awry and create monsters in our midst, we need no extra assistance on a massive scale, such as the poverty described by Focus Hope.

* * * *

If we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia, and if we see Russia is winning, we ought to help Germany, and that way let them kill as many as possible.

-Harry S Truman

* * * *

LEGISLATOR WOULD SCREEN CONS FOR 'JUNK FOOD'

Taken from Syracuse Herald-Journal
Friday, March 12, 1982 (A-6)

ALBANY (AP) — A New York state legislator wants all parole and probation officers to find out if the convicts they are dealing with are eating too much "junk food."

Assemblyman Ralph Coldstein announced yeaterday that he had introduced legislation which would require that all probation and parole clients be screened to detect possible hypoglycemia or low blood sugar.

According to the Queens Democrat, the disorder can lead to increased criminal behavior much in the same way that some foods and food additives have been linked to hyperactivity in children and adults.

"A healthy diet, low in refined flour and sugar, has proven to be effective in calming hyperactive children and adults," said Goldstein. "Criminal activity can similarly be lessened."

Goldstein based his legislation on work done by a 51-year old Akron, Ohio-area probation officer.

"We have been screening everyone we get since 1975," explained Barbara Reed, chief probation officer for the Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, probation office. "In the past five years, 80 percent of the people we have worked with have not gotten into trouble again."

Mr. Reed, who has headed up the probation program for the suburban community of about 50,000 people since 1971, spent eight years working with the Akron probation department before taking over in Cayahoga Falls.

"I got interested in this (nutrition and its relationship to criminal behavior) because I had been ill myself," she said. "I picked up a book on nutrition and I started feeling better."

Mrs. Reed said she began screening people for hypoglycemia after she noticed that many of them complained of the same symptoms she had, including depression, fatigue and occasional mental blanks.

* * * *

STATISTICAL

OPENING LINES OF HER AUTOBIOGRAPHY Billie Holliday

Mom and Pop were just a couple of kids when they got married.
He was eighteen, she was sixteen, and I was three.

* * * *

FAREWELL FRIENDS...

HAPOTOC is no more - About a month ago I received a FAREWELL letter from Miss Corrie Courtens, she is one of the Editor's still residing in Holland. I first heard of this really good newsletter from a friend of mine in Collins Bay - we are all very sad...

This is the last "message" you will receive from us. Totally unexpected and with a very sad feeling we must announce the end of Hapotoc.

And for all that we have shared together, we ask you **DON'T GIVE UP!** Join another group who works a similar way! **STAY ACTIVE!** Do whatever has to be done.

Keep the lines open with the brothers and sisters behind the walls. Don't let them down. We too will remain active, we'll write with and for prisoners as always and will stand up against nuclear insanity, as always.

Well, we do hope to keep in contact with other activists. Yes, we do feel rotten. We knew that what we did wasn't really shocking, but we were able to show that facism and violence are to be found among sometimes decent looking government officials, prison wardens etc.etc.

We made people aware of what is done by humans to humans and we can't be aware enough of that. 1984 Two more years to go. 1984 Two more years to go.

All the best to all of you!

Corrie Courtens
P.O. Box 22523, Fazantenhof
Amsterdam, Bijlmermeer, Holland

Willie Snoeck
P.O. Box 10638
Amsterdam, Holland

WHAT IS LEFT?

After the bars and the gates and the degradation

What is left?

After the lock-ins and the lock-outs and the lock-ups

What is left?

I mean, after the chains that get entangled in the grey of one's matter
After the bars, that get stuck in the hearts of men and women

What is left?

After the tears and disappointments

After the lonely isolation

After the cut wrist and the heavy noose

What is left?

After the murderburgers and the goon-squads and the tear gas

What is left?

I mean after you know that God can't be trusted
After you know that the shrink is a pusher
that the world is a whip, and the badge is a bullet
What is left?

After you know that the dead are still walking
After you realize that the silence is talking
that outside and inside are just an illusion
What is left?

I mean, like where is the sun?
Where are her arms and where are her kisses?
There are lipprints on my pillow, I am searching!
What is left?

I mean like nothing is standstill and nothing is abstract
the wing of a butterfly can't take flight
the foot on my back is part of a body
the song that I sing is part of an echo
What is left?

I mean like love is specific
is my mind a machinegun, is my heart a hacksaw?
Can I make freedom real? Yeah!
What is left?

I am at the top and bottom of a lower archy
I am in love with losers and laughter
I am in love with freedom and children
Love is my sword and truth is my compass
What is left?

ASSATA SHAKUR '77

Taken from MANIFESTO - HAPOTOC.



LET'S GET PRISON OBSERVERS

BEFORE MORE LIVES ARE LOST

Taken from 'The Vancouver Sun' (Letters)

Sincere thanks to Louise Phillips for her sensitive reaction to the news of still another prison suicide, that of John Clifford at Mission medium security institution (Sun Letters, Nov.27)

Clifford took his life after two years of legal wrangling with the solicitor-general's department. When the solicitor-general finally ruled that the 5- to 45-year Texas sentence would have to be officially classified as 45 years, Clifford gave up in despair.

It now costs closer to \$50,000 (not the \$25,000 Quoted) to maintain a prisoner in the federal penitentiary system.

We should be asking why the Mission Institution continues to ignore the ruling that there must be a functioning alarm system when men are locked into their cells, with no other access in emergencies.

We should be asking about "internal investigations" which are never reported to the public, or to its elected representatives - not even to MPs.

We should be asking why the solicitor-general "would like to see Mounties resume recruitment of high school students as informers." (Canadian Press, Oct.31)

We should be asking about the reference to "establish, administer, and operate civilian internment camps..." (Privy council document no.1305, gazetted June 10.)

The only effective way to extract the truth and to expedite responsible actions is to demand that concerned observer teams, accountable to the community, and not to the Correctional Service of Canada (a component of the solicitor-general's department) be allowed in to every prison to investigate and monitor, before more lives are lost, staff as well as prisoner.

CLAIRE CULHANE

3965 Pandora
Burnaby

ERROR ADMITTED, BUT QUESTIONS

ABOUT PRISONS STILL UNANSWERED

(Vancouver Sun/81)

I did indeed err in anticipating a coroner's ruling in the death of John Clifford at Mission Institution on Nov. 18 (Let's Get Prison Observers Before More Lives Are Lost, Sun Letters, Dec.7), and I extend my sincere apologies to his family for any additional grief I may have caused

cont...

them by suggesting that the verdict will be one of suicide.

But J.R. Stewart (Cause of Death Not Yet Known, Sun Letters, Dec.15) shares my responsibility to maintain a scrupulous observance of the truth about the case, described by coroner Fred Boyle as the longest single minimum term of any prisoner in Canada (Cell Death a Mystery, Sun, Nov.21).

It was no secret that Clifford did not realize the full consequence of his return to Canada, and that it resulted in part from the confusion between a reference to a conviction of up to 45 years in one instance, and to confinement for a minimum of five years in another.

In the Montreal Gazette of Sept.23,1980, the warden of Kent Prison, John Dowsett, was reported to have said: "I'm absolutely convinced that this is a gross miscarriage of the intention of the treaty and totally contrary to the intentions of the sentencing judge."

Two final questions:

• What hope did Clifford have of summoning help from his cell, which had no alarm despite recommendations over the years that Mission Institution install such alarms?

• What assurance can Stewart offer that Clifford's being "eligible for parole after serving seven years" or being "eligible for a temporary absence program next year" carried with it any guarantee that he would have benefited? Unfortunately, being "eligible for parole" is utterly meaningless to all those serving indeterminate sentences in Canadian prisons, because there is nothing written into the parole regulations that guarantees that they will ever be released.

Meanwhile, a man lies dead, a family grieves, and his own words pass unheeded:

"Unless the Canadian people wake up to the reality of the situation, and take advantage of this opportunity to enshrine their basic human rights in law, they will find that because they chose not to protest the injustice done to one, they will have no right to protest the injustice done to them" (Rights that Are Ignored Will Be Lost, Sun Letters, March 14).

CLAIRE CULHANE

* * * *

EIGHT POINTS OF THE LAW 1750

George A. Selwyn

1. a good cause; 2, a good purse; 3, good evidence; 4, an honest and skillful attorney; 5, honest witnesses; 6, an upright judge; 7; an intelligent jury; 8, good luck.

SOLITARY RIDER

by Don Tyler 4169

Last night I rode with the elk
across the tundra.
I felt the wind on my face
A breath of life in my soul.

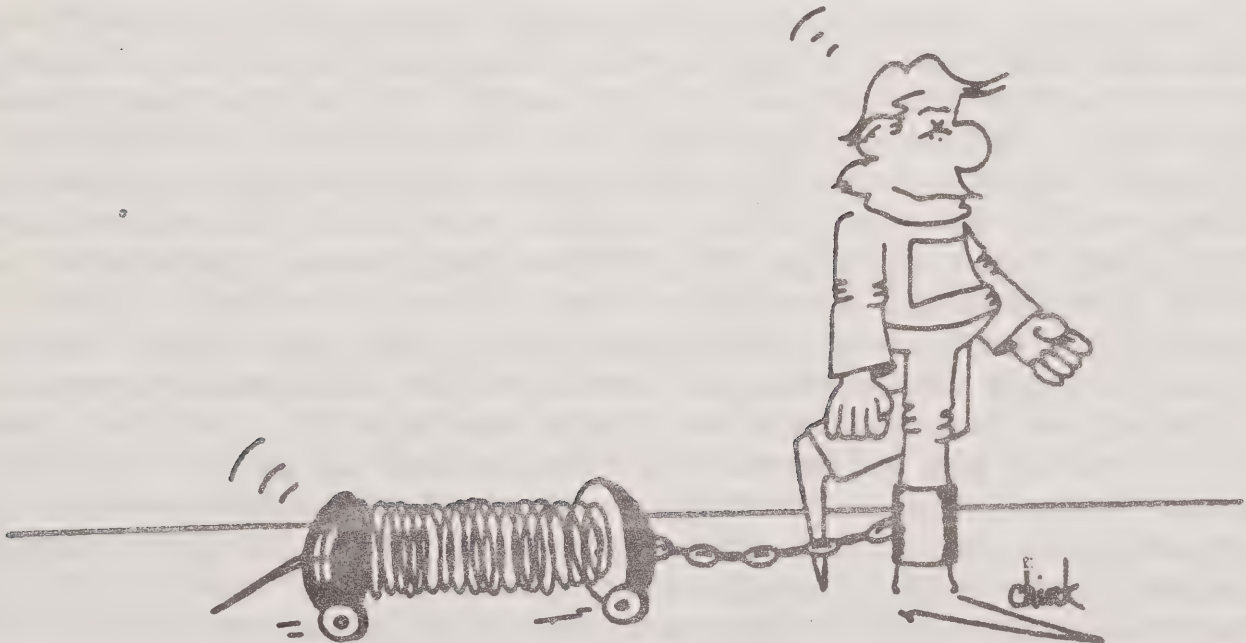
I became a nomad traveling
with the sun.
Setting my mind to rest
I could feel - something
that has long since passed.

Last night I was truly free
until this morning when
I awoke to the cold, the
dampness of my cell.

The sun doesn't even enter
for fear of being trapped
within
My plants refuse to grow
in this dormant land.

Living is beyond the wall,
in the evening I can
hear this life,
Sounds that remain a memory
(Extinction is near)
Existence is all I am.

* * * *



DAWN OF THE NEW ERA
by Mitchell Staats

There has arisen across this land a new breed of Indian, they are university educated doctors, lawyers, professors, businessmen and teachers. In the councils of power, their voices are small, yet growing in leaps and bounds. The emergence of these "New Indians", demands that the country listen with new ears!

They have combined their learning with human morality and Tribal philosophy which weds the ancient and modern styles of our people, in a combination that can and will not be destroyed. They are dismayed by the conditions of our people, and are driven by the same common urge to make this country's native people into the free-spirited, proud nations of our ancestors. In times past our enemies, and some times our friends have said "The Redman is dead, and there is no way to bring him back." They are wrong, for the New Indians have found the way. It has always been there, just no-one had the strength to continue; they feared the retribution of the government and it's powers. Now these New Indians do not fear the government, for some of them are the government. More of them are joining this body in order to right the wrongs of the last three hundred years of so-called "Demoncracy and Equality." Their numbers are increasing, and soon their power and strength shall be felt.

The New Indian is strong, for his roots are in the land and the people of the land. Not just his people, but also those who wish to make this a country for their Children!. In the words of the great medicine man Sitting Bull, "Let us put our minds together and see what kind of world we can make for our children". Today the New Indians have began the long road to recovery. They know the road is filled with blocks and pitfalls, yet they strive on. They know they are only mere mortals, but they also have the strength of their "Great Creator" and the strength, love and care of their people to guide them. They shall not fail, for if they do, our people shall perish; not just my people - but yours also. For when our people and our ways die, so shall yours.

Let us look at the differences of our nations of people. In the centuries before your people knew we existed. We had no need for courts and prisons, for we understood no man had the right to pass judgement on his brothers, rightly so, for the "Great Creator" is the only one who has the right to pass judgement on his children. Today in a country that spends un-told hundreds of millions of your hard earned tax dollars to house only a hand-full of people, wouldn't our way be much easier on us, and our people behind the walls? We all know that the rehabilitative process much vaunted by the government has failed in its purpose. Surely the government knows this, yet they continue to waste your money

cont...

on their failures. In our ways, our old were never ignored or stored away in old-age homes - our sick and lame never went uncared for, our youngsters and women never went without food in their stomachs, even if they didn't have a man around.

Today we see children rooting in garbage cans for food, we see the most knowledgeable people alive ignored and un-listened to. The old people, our elders have more to teach us than any book or teacher even could, yet when they hit 65, we condemn them to a existing death. How can we with pride say "All people in Canada are equal", when things like this are allowed to continue?

The foundation of true democracy is "freedom of all man-kind, equality and the right to live as you chose". This country Canada has to date 25,000 restrictions on how you can live and this number is growing larger every day. Soon the number of restrictions shall out-number the people, and then where will we be?

It seems rather obvious that the times and the struggles of the people demand a change. The New Indians have the change for the better. It is the movement back towards the ways of old. When men were united in the cause of advancement, not only personal advances, but on a larger national scale. When the people knew where they stood with their leaders, not like today, where it seems the leaders have forgotten the people. Where no-one went hungry, unless they refused to work. When there was a pride in oneself, for being part of something that treated you as it treated itself; - with dignity and equality.

Canada, for all its advantages is becoming fast a complacent nation, stumbling along in its last legs. The people are afraid the government will fail them, and that is sure to happen. For the signs of now point towards that. You can see that rather clearly. The leaders bickering among themselves for more pay, while over a million Canadians haven't a job. The country's leaders should be just glad they have a job, their definitely not worth the money they are paid. It is time for a change, now before its to late to reverse the damages. Sacred mother Earth, can no longer be made to suffer alone. When the Great Creator sees how much she has truly suffered - she will cause the end of all man-kind. Now before its to late, let us unite for ourselves and for our children. I feel a slow-coming better Canada is better than no Canada! Remember these words, "What is lost is ours to gain" Canada come together and unite, let us move towards the only true democracy that guarantees 'Equality and freedom of all men.' Free and unified Native Canada, of the people, for all the people!

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MINUTES OF TORONTO JUSTICE COUNCIL

HELD MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1982, AT 4:15 P.M. AT ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY
215 WELLESLEY STREET EAST

Present: Ruth Morris (chair), Fred Franklin, Rhoda Butt, Lillian Floro, Louise Dueck, Anthony Lorrains, Harry Nigh, Jake Friesen, Darya Arden, Rev. Arnold Bethune, Anne-Louise Løgle, Lucy Gregghi, Eleanor MacDonald, Ronnie Yaron, Joice Lawson.

4. Collins Bay Inmates Concerns One of the concerns coming out of the visit between Justice Council and the Collins Bay John Howard Society group was that too many young people (16 - 18 years old) were getting penitentiary time. They saw a sharp increase in this age group in prison and have corresponded with Ruth on a half dozen such cases.

Harry suggested that M2 does have a small Collins Bay programme and referrals could be made to Rev. Ab Vickers. Harry to respond to Stephen St. Denis re: the fellows referred and to establish ongoing contact between Justice Council and the John Howard Society chapter there.

* * * *

EDITORS NOTE: In response to our requests for help in this matter, these people drafted a letter to Robert Kaplan...

Robert Kaplan
Solicitor-General
Houses of Parliament

28/4/82

Dear Robert Kaplan:

Our committee has been told that young (i.e. teenaged) prisoners in the Collins Bay Penitentiary are being caused to consort with older, more experienced prisoners. These young prisoners have long sentences. Prisons are schools for crime. Perhaps it would be more difficult for these newcomers to prison to learn an illicit trade and to be sexually exploited if they were not closely associated with such expert teachers in an environment so conducive to their education.

Please see what you can do to segregate the young prisoners at Collins Bay from their older colleagues. Why not remove them entirely from that jail and send them to another, slightly less ferocious place?

Alternatively, why not consider letting these (and other) prisoners serve their sentences in the community instead of apart from it, in prison? The taxpayers' money would be saved thereby and the prisoners' rehabilitation would become a possibility.

Cordially yours,

Ted Whittaker
(for AQCJJ)

c.: Stephen St. Denis
Collins Bay John Howard Society
Box 190
Kingston K7L 4V9
Ontario

* * * *



EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE'S OLYMPIAD

COLLINS BAY

by Ron Lauzon

On behalf of the "Exceptional People", the Olympiad Committee, our supporters, and the entire prison population, I would like to express a warm welcome and a sincere vote of thanks to all members of the News Media. It has long been a realization that you and your respective organizations play an important role, one that directly contributes to the success and growth of each Olympiad.

Your interest, support and assistance in promotion of the Exceptional People's Olympiad are greatly appreciated. The many letters and phone calls we receive attest to the fact that constructive reporting promotes a positive public response to our event. With this in mind, we have produced the following for your information and convenience; A short history of Special Olympics; an up-to-date history of the Exceptional People's Olympiad; and a preview of this years event.

The first 'Special Olympics' became a reality because of the dream and work of one of Canada's not often enough mentioned hereos, "Dr. Frank Hayden" of McMaster University. Dr. Hayden is known as the creator of "Special Olympics". His dream was first sponsored and organized by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation in Washington, D.C. in 1968. It is known today as 'SPECIAL OLYMPICS INC.', it is headed by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, President, who continues to send us her support with prayers for on going success.

The phenomenal growth of this program has seen it expand from the United States and Canada to more than 27 Countries around the world. We here at Collins Bay are proud and happy to be in our small way a part of such a movement, especially in light of the fact that it was here at 'Collins Bay Penitentiary' that we became the first and only prison in Canada to hold a 'Special Olympics' within prison walls. It is our understanding that we are the only prison in the "WORLD" that has hosted five consecutive "Special Olympics". Our sincerity, dedication, crescendo and unblemished record now leads us into the "Sixth Annual Exceptional People's Olympiad".

In 1977, when Le Group Social Francais sponsored the 'First Collins Bay Special Olympic's (that year it was called the Exceptional Childrens Olympiad, and was officially changed in 1978 to the 'EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE'S OLYMPIAD'), it was a whole new concept to us - a real challenge. There were many, many unanswered questions and unforeseen problems to be solved. But the 'Games' in 1977 were organized and a successful Olympiad was achieved nevertheless. Afterwards, questionnaires were mailed to the participating Centres for their comments: - both negative and positive, on all aspects of the 'Olympiad' from food - to moral feedback. New ideas were suggested and improvements were made. Today it appears that from

those humble beginnings, the continuous input of ideas and suggestions; coupled with the response and support we obtain from both sides of the wall, that somebody is obviously doing something right.

Since 1977 participation on the part of the Developmental Centres has increased. Initially we began with (3) Centres in 1977, and increased it to (4) by 1978. As of 1981 we had increased it to (5) Centres participating with one more - Cheshire Homes observing, (the Cheshire Homes guests were all confined to wheelchairs). It is with extreme pleasure that we are able to announce that this year 1982, we have the good fortune to add yet another Centre, bringing our total to (6) participating Centres:

Centres participating this year are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Rideau Regional Centre, | Smith Falls |
| 2. D'Arcy Place Development Centre, | Cobourg |
| 3. Gatchell Senior School, | Sudbury |
| 4. Prince Edward Heights, | Picton |
| 5. Ongwanda Hospital | |
| (Penrose Division), | Kingston |
| 6. St. Lawrence Regional Centre, | Brockville |

In 1978, the 'Second Annual Olympiad' was sponsored by another of our Inmate Groups - the 'Ten Plus Group' (ie; members serving 10 years or more), and 1978 was also a good year for the "Exceptional People's Olympiad". The 10+ Fellowship requested and obtained support from other groups and individuals, both on the inside and from the outside. That year saw the beginning of some free-world donations; This was the real beginning of total participation, setting standards for 1979 - when the concept became one of wide community involvement.

The subsequent growth of the Games resulted in the project becoming too large for any one group within the Penitentiary to organize effectively. It was decided that the 'Olympiad' should be hosted by the entire prison population. Consequently, each and every Inmate has become involved in the Olympiad in some way, and contributes to its success. Not the least of these functions includes the very special involvement of the God-Brothers. A 'God Brother' (over 150 of them), is paired off with each one of the competitors and for these two days becomes his or her friend, trainer, advisor and confidante. Many meaningful and lasting relationships are formed between contestant and God Brother over the years. Last year saw participation from 'Kingston Prison for Women', not only did the P4W Ten Plus Fellowship provide many services for the Olympiad from their membership at the P4W, but we were allowed to have three of our female contemporaries actually attend the event and the assistance they were able to provide here was of great help. This year we will be seeing more of our friends from P4W, there will be eight women

cont...

attending four on each day of the Olympiad.

In 1980, the Olympiad Committee was able to recognize the tremendous community support by awarding (6) Special Awards known as "Con's Awards". These awards were presented to (6) exceptionally outstanding individuals and groups. In 1981 we increased this number to (10), the awards went to the following persons and groups:

- 1 Brigadier General Stewart Royal Military College, Kingston
- 2 Mr. Jim Shames, Silverwood Dairies, Kingston
- 3 Ms. Elizabeth Markon, Kingston
- 4 Ms. Jann Poitras, Sudbury.
- 5 Mr. Graham Stewart, John Howard Society, Kingston
- 6 Mr. James May, Saint Laurent, Quebec.
- 7 Inmates Wives Group, John Howard Society, Ottawa
- 8 Inmates Wives Group, John Howard Society, Kingston
- 9 Mr. Richard B. Hession, Hession Foods Ltd., Kingston
- 10 Mr. Tony McGilvery, Alliance Missionary Church, Kingston

This year we will see again (10) Con's Awards with the addition of two new awards, those being: - "The Humanitarian of the Year Award", and "The Most Inspired and Enthusiastic Exceptional People's Olympiad Supporter"! (Whew!!)

Last years new running track laid by the prisoners of Collins Bay and the face lift to the recreation area added an air of professionalism to the surroundings. Look for more this year, other additions will include 'Multi-Cultural' expositions sponsored by a variety of inside groups and their liaisons. We will again be presenting the Santans Choice M.C. Cup to the Centre with the most competition points, and also the Vagabond M.C. Plaques will be presented to the best Male and best Female Athletes.

As from the beginning the Royal Military College will again be supplying accommodations for the athletes and their chaperones as well as a number of other services that we could hardly do without in attempting another successful 'Olympiad'. This year (1982) promises to be even bigger and better than in previous years. The list of our scheduled events and functions during the two days of July 24th - 25th 1982 is outlined on the following page. We truly hope that it meets the approval of all concerned.

* We are not listing all the events from lack of space.

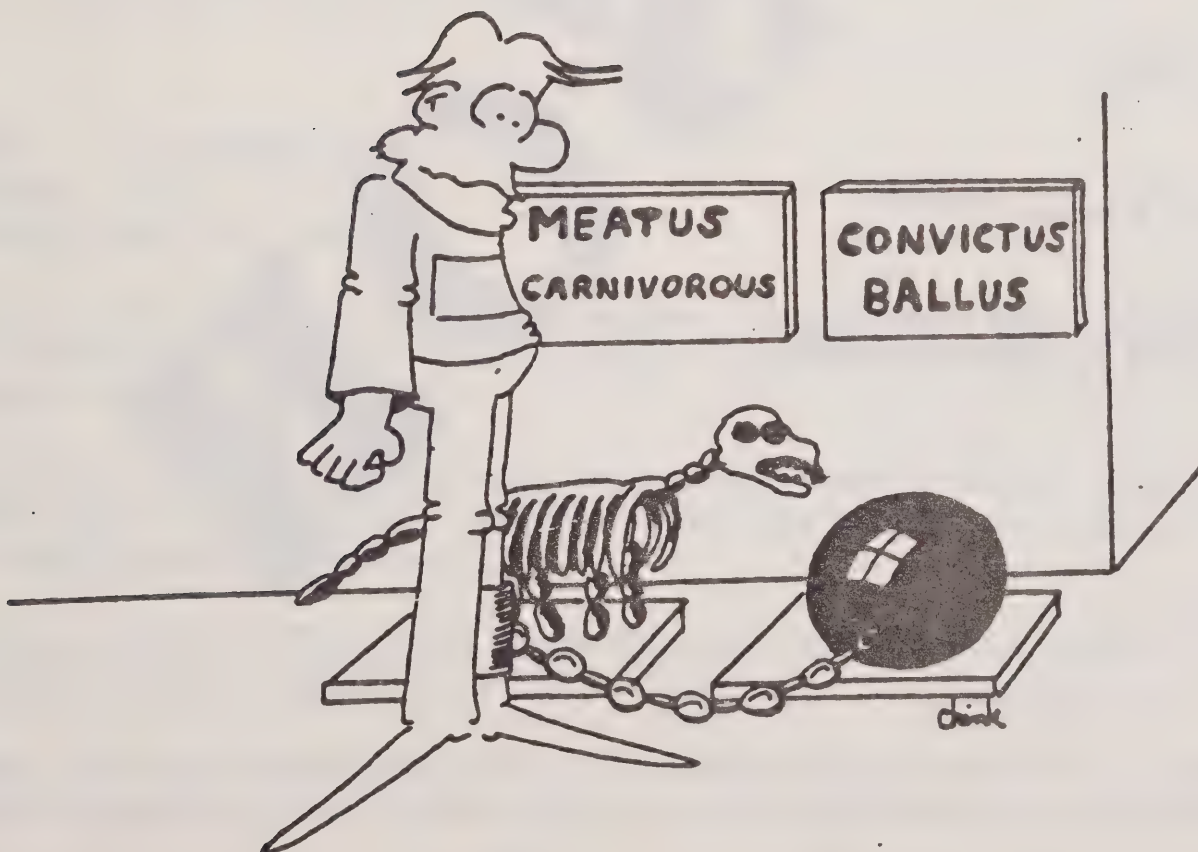
* * * *

THE DAY YOU LEFT

by Ron DENHAM C.B.I.

These feelings deep within myself
I try to hide from you forsaking
All this love I have and living
With it too I wish you'd reach
Within your heart and see how much
I care and realize that what you
Did wasn't really all that fair
The day you left I sat and cried
And wondered what to do, but all I
Saw were empty visions of
Living without you.

* * * *



WHAT'S NOT SEEN

by Joseph Blaylock

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YOUR TELEX DATED APRIL 10, 1982 TO THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING A GRANT OF AMNESTY FOR ALL FEDERAL INMATES TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S VISIT AND THE REPATRIATION OF THE CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ME FOR REPLY. ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST, OCCASIONAL GRANTS OF AMNESTY HAVE BEEN MADE ON HISTORIC OCCASIONS, THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE PATTERN IN RECENT YEARS. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT PREVIOUSLY THERE WAS NOT THE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF RELEASE PROGRAMS THAT CURRENTLY EXIST, WHICH PERMIT THE CSC AND NPB TO MAKE RELEASE ON A SELECTIVE BASIS AFTER CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF RISK AND INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE. AMNESTY COULD NOT REALISTICALLY BE GRANTED ON A SELECTIVE BASIS AND IS THEREFORE NOT A FEASIBLE PROPOSITION IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. THEREFORE, AS MY FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS THE PROTECTION OF SOCIETY I AM UNABLE TO SUPPORT YOUR REQUEST. REGARDS.

A. WAKABAYASHI POLICY BRANCH SOIGEN

* * * *

TO: A.WAKABAYASHI
FROM: P.R.G.
DATE: April 22, 1982

Your telex April 16 rejecting request for amnesty for 10,000 Federal prisoners ignored the specific qualification: "reduction of one month for every year sentenced."

By also ignoring low 22% rate of parole (Pacific area) leading to overcrowding and subsequent justification (sic) for increased prison construction and expansion -

By ignoring the fact that apart from an infinitesimal number, incarceration is no longer recognized as the solution for the "protection of society" -

That you are thereby maintaining an enormously expensive, incompetent and barbaric prison system which diverts millions of taxpayers' dollars

cont...

from providing adequate housing, medical care, education and the desperately needed relevant employment.

A more accurate conclusion would be that you are unwilling - not unable - to support our request.

Tant pitié!

(French for 'too bad' / 'pity')

* * * *

WHEN SILENCE IS
IS WRONG

"Silence has its limits.

There are moments when, without
any tangible utility,

Something has to be said for no
other reason than that it is true.
If it is not said, the moral order
of the world suffers a blow that
is hard to overcome, harder
than its violence by brute force.

And this principle is valid also for
the silence we keep to prevent
something worse happening

For ultimately the worst that could
happen is that truth and justice
would no longer find spokesmen
and martyrs on the earth."

--By a German priest during
Hitler's rise to power.
Reprinted from "Outlook"
February '81.

THE BEACON - February.1981

* * * *

PRISON LITERACY

by Billy Bryant

Things are as they should be, not from the view of the administration but certainly in order for me to be free inside myself. I hope that you can explain that part of "doing time" to the good people at the conference. I won't go into detail about that part of our life in here, as that is not what this conference is about. I hope it is sufficient to say that I am free.

For a long time the idea of speaking to teachers about teaching had me more than a little nervous. And then it occurred to me that the term "teaching" was a bit presumptuous. In this setting, prison, we do little more than provide information, if we confront this challenge as teachers.

The role of the person providing the pieces to the puzzle, needs in understanding any subject, becomes newly defined by the inmate. Something akin to adoration and certainly a deep respect, develops as a prisoner puts his vulnerability on the line: - a very large step to take after existing in this environment. Still, with open hearts and open minds they come, we come.

It occurs to me that "going to school" in some instances could be used as a ploy with the pay-off being parole. That very well might be a factor at first - but from the moment of the first aha!, from the moment of revelation forward, a kind of affair develops between the tutor, student and subject that will last a lifetime.

The methods and procedures and other ways of helping to form the associations necessary for understanding and learning are free and loose in this relationship, as some of the people at the conference will be fortunate enough to have experienced a word or a concept a bit at a time and see the eyes light up as the connection is formed is the material that sighs are made of.

But enough about that, I'm sure that everyone there has had a student of students that have been rewarding, particularly reluctant or disinterested students that respond and begin to understand.

I don't know what else I can say about "our school" and the role it plays in our lives. I guess its really the interactions and relationships we have with our teachers. In the past, a lot of us had very few reasons to respect our teachers, they were the enemy. That can never be said of the likes of Helen Hillen. It is a rare occasion when a sigh doesn't accompany the mentions of her name. It gives everyone reason to pause and reflect on the greatness of her being. Giving people, human that very few of us have the opportunity to actually interact with, Willy Gladu is a saint, as is Ed Shay and Peter.

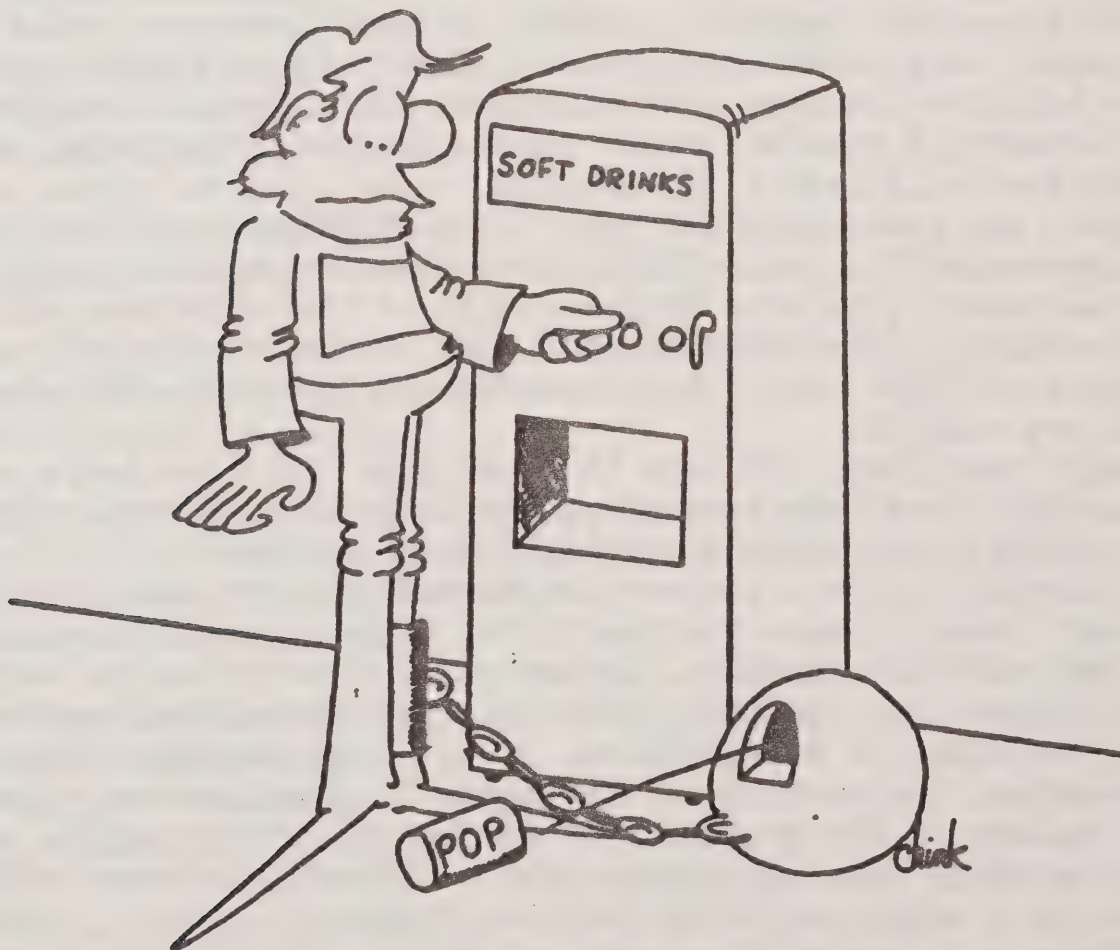
One of the most pleasurable aspects of "our" school is the absence of an adversary attitude. It is a place where we are surrounded by

cont...

teachers and instructors and 'frinds' that allow free rein to the different approaches to acquiring knowledge. I have too add, within limits being defined as degree of effort. With the variety of attention span and the wide degree of motivations in the school, one thing remains constant and that is the respect given to people that assist in the learing process. That will be the most pleasant surprise for the people intending to offer their talents and services to us. They will be made welcome by the students of Collins Bay.

I will close now. I just read the part already written and there is so much more that I want to say about the role the people from the street play in our reviewing our lives. Nowhere else is the impact so great as in the school or through tutors. We need people from every subject and/or discipline. Please spread the word at the conference, they are welcome here!! And please get their understanding: I must be free inside of me or my prison will be everywhere...

* * * *



ARTICLE ON COLLEGES' CONFERENCE
by Sandra Cantalon

The Frontier Colleges Conference on Literacy in Prisons took place Friday April 2nd, 1982 at Alliance Church. Mr. Burpoint, head of Frontier College gave the key note address. He began his presentation with a brief history of Frontier College and its work with teaching adults to read and write. Initially this work was done in remote areas and in isolated work camps but for the past 6 years the college has been making inroads in the prisons. Mr. Burpoint quoted some very interesting statistics on adult literacy in Canada. One million Canadians cannot read or write and three to four million have difficulties. Frontier College is committed to a matching, one to one of pupil and tutor. Their experience has been that the greatest single factor in the success of this approach is the human interest and commitment that develops between the teacher and student. John Stimpson, former secretary of the John Howard Society, Collins Bay Chapter presented a brief statement emphasizing the importance of outside people reaching into the prison to help in this area where the need is great. Billy Bryant, an inmate at Collins Bay, was unable to attend the panel discussion however, his written statement was read by John Howard member, Sandra Cantalon.

The Warden from Joyceville Pen spoke of the value of tutors on a feeling level and how important it was to teach inmates how to verbalize their feelings. Being able to say "I feel anger" or "I feel annoyed", cuts down on frustration. He indicated that there is a need for "more people who are giving of themselves on a personal level. However he gave one word of caution to volunteers, "Volunteers must get used to waiting!"

An employee of Frontier College who has had experience tutoring in a prison farm camp also had some advise for would be volunteers. Volunteers must take their commitments seriously, they must have competence i.e. "Do-gooders" should know how to do good". There should be a training program for literacy volunteers and volunteers should take time to understand the environment they go into. Helen Hillen, co-ordinator of the literacy program for area prisons, reiterated these words of caution to volunteers. Helen brought her usual warmth and compassion into the room and left the appoximatly '40' people attending the conference, re-charged or simply charged. Tony McGillvary and his 'HELP' staff topped off this high energy morning with a high calorie feed.

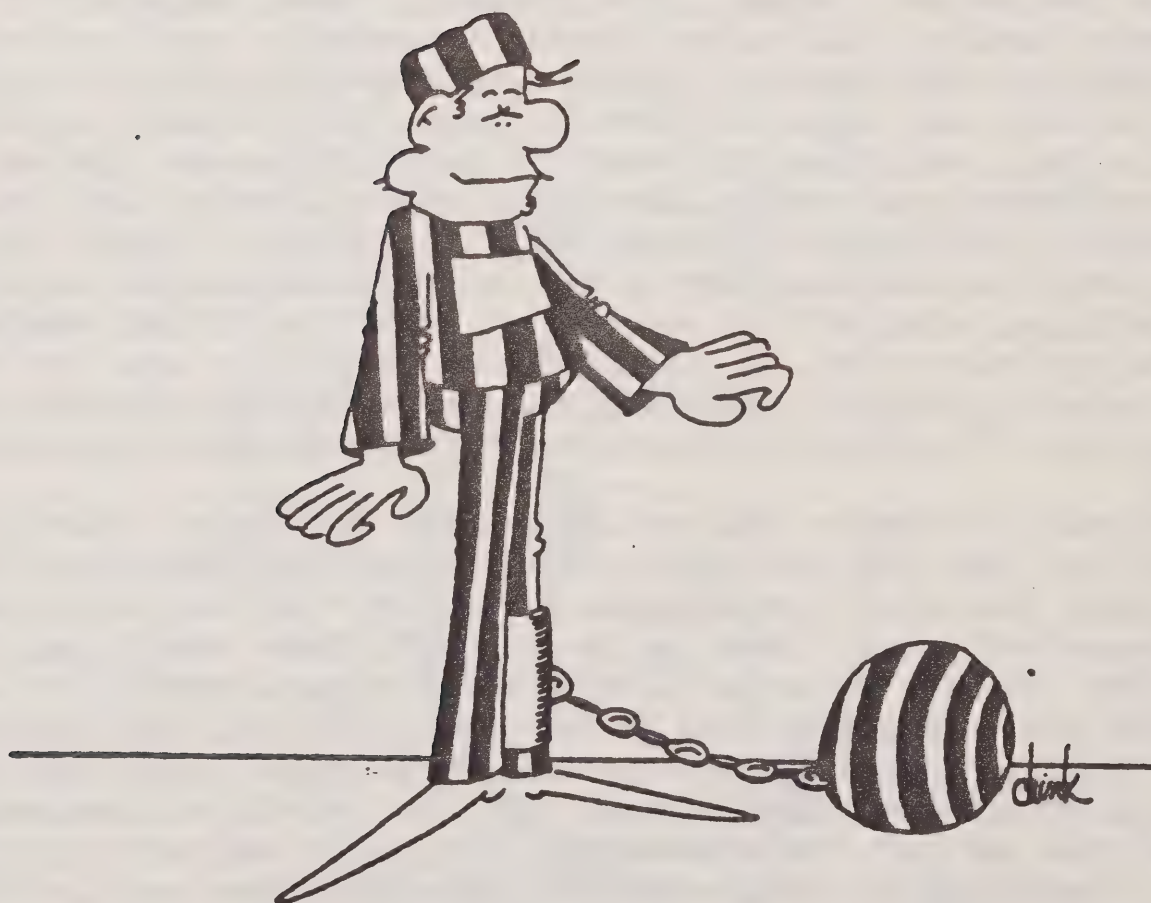
The afternoon program centered around presentations from various groups in Kinston which are presently involved in tutoring adults on a one to one basis. These include Kingston Literacy Council, Adult Reading Program, Frontinac County School Board, St. Laurence College,

cont...

John Howard Society and Elizabeth Fry Society. Graham Stewart J.H.S. executive director, endorsed the one to one program as supplementary and complimentary to the services offered by J.H.S., indicating the reason John Howard hasn't been more involved is that the Society does not have the expertise or financial resources to train tutors per se.

The conference was a success for organizers Doug Bell of Frontier College in that it brought together a diverse group of people with a common interest and promoted a feeling of solidarity and unity of purpose. Perhaps most important, from the volunteer's viewpoint, was the creation of much needed positive energy essential to a successful one-to-one lieteracy program for area prisons.

* * * *



UNTITLED

Dear Lord, guard my children tonight,
wherever they might be.
Take their little hands in Yours,
and guide them tenderly.
It's not their fault, their mom's a con,
and unfit as some may say.
Point their feet to higher ground,
don't let them come this way.
Take their little hands in Yours,
and guide them tenderly.
Don't let the critics of the world
scar their souls like me.
I haven't talked too much to you, Lord,
and this might not be the way,
But of all the things I've learned in life
I've never learned to pray.
But tonight I thought that if I try,
You just might hear my plea.
And kind of watch my little ones,
they're only nine and three.
At these last words the lights went out,
and the corridors grew dim.
But from many a dark and lonely cell,
there whispered a soft "Amen".

by Sheila Cox P4W
taken from 'tightwire'

* * * *

FREE SPEECH

Charles Bradlaugh

Without free speech no search for truth is possible; without free speech no discovery of truth is useful; without free speech progress is checked and the nations no longer march forward toward the nobler life which the future holds for men. Better a thousandfold abuse of free speech than denial of free speech. The abuse dies in a day, but the denial slays the life of the people and entombs the hope of the race.

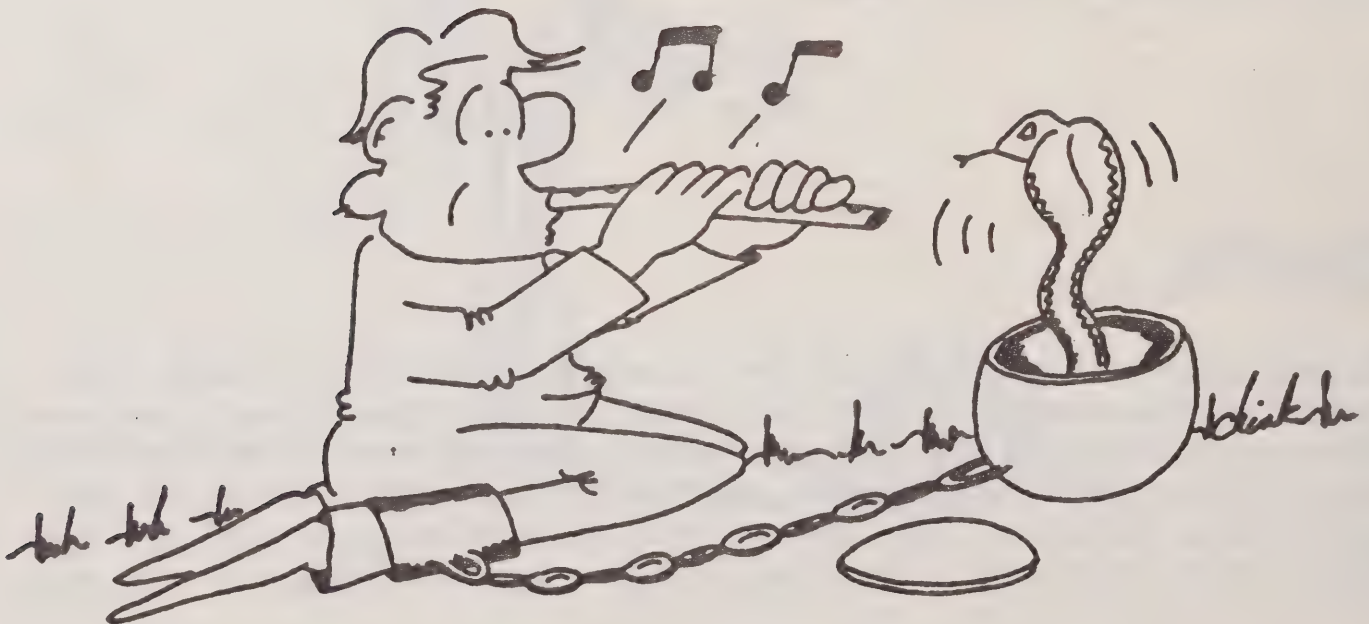
* * * *

FAITH

by Ron Denham

The city lies before me awash in light
High above stands a solitary figure in the night
I came, I saw, I conquered I believe thats the way it goes
Why I came back. I don't think I'll ever know
Two long years in prison spent waiting for this day
Coming three thousand miles but now I'll be home to stay
Now, I'm on the outskirts my feelings start to ebb
An insignificant fly caught in a spiders web
Down below me somewhere a woman waits for me
Waiting, waiting, waiting - for the day they'd set me free
In my mind a key turns, unlocking my cell door
Everyday away from you makes me want you more
Perhaps one day I'll come home, then I'll make amends
But everyday I'm still locked herein my love to you I'll send
Until that door is open I'll stand here on this hill
Forsake me not my darling, and know, I need you still.

* * * *



SPORTS TOURNAMENT AT C.B.I.

There was a Baseball Tournament played inside the wall at Collins Bay Institution on the weekend of July 10, 1982. The teams that participated were as follows: - C.B.I. Allstars, Native Brotherhood team A&B, and we had a special appearance from the Sixth Nations Royals, who represented the 'Sixth Nations' reservation located about 250 miles from Collins Bay.

To start the games off, the C.B.I. Allstars played the Brotherhood team 'B'. The weather and the ball diamonds were perfect for a good day of ball. There was no score in the first three innings, but in the fourth the Allstars came to bat and won four runs on the Brotherhood "B's". This left a wide margin for the B's - they fought back in the sixth to pick up a run. This was not enough though, so the Allstars left the ballfield with a first game win of 7 - 1.

In the other match between the Brotherhood Team 'A', and the Royals, there was lots of action. It was back and fourth for the first three innings, then in the top of the fourth the Brotherhood went ahead by three runs. The next inning saw the Royals pick up two runs, which made for an exciting game. As the game came to a close we saw the A's score another couple of runs, and the Royals banged another one home, but this was to no avail because the final score was Brotherhood A's 5, and the Royals 3. We'd like to thank the Sixth Nations for coming in for a good day of baseball, and hope they will participate in future games.

The excitement came to a peak at 6:00 o'clock that evening, to see who would win it all!.

The stands were full as the game started. The first few innings were pretty much even, but in the third the Brotherhood A's were hot! They picked up seven runs. As the game progressed we saw the Allstars score six runs. As the score stayed fairly even, the Brotherhood seemed to find their second wind, and came out in the eighth to score six more runs. The Allstars played good ball, but they were no match for the A's. The final score was 13 - 6 for the Brotherhood A's.

This win will show up on the Trophies for the A's. It was a great day of baseball, we all enjoyed ourselves both players, and spectators. We would like at this time to thank the umpires of all three games, they did a fantastic job.

Tribalways Native Brotherhood
Sports
by Gerald Jacobs

Privileged parole

Three years ago, Toronto businessmen Sydney Cooper and Harold McNamara were convicted of conspiring to defraud the public of \$4.2-million by rigging bids on seven dredging contracts between 1969 and 1975. For their part in this crime, Mr. McNamara was sentenced to five years in prison and Mr. Cooper was sentenced to three years. Associate Chief Justice William Parker of the Ontario Supreme Court rejected the Crown's plea for terms of nine to 12 years, saying that because of the men's age — Mr. McNamara was 64 in 1979, and Mr. Cooper was 57 — such terms might well amount to a life sentence.

Judge Parker needn't have worried. Both men started serving their terms last April, after losing appeals for lighter sentences. Mr. McNamara was released in February after serving 10 months — one-sixth of his term — and Mr. Cooper was paroled last September. Both men, New Democratic Party justice critic Svend Robinson told the Commons this week, are on day parole, serving it in their own

homes rather than in a halfway house. In fact, said Mr. Robinson, the National Parole Board allowed Mr. Cooper to take a winter vacation in Florida and the Caribbean while on parole.

Mr. Robinson proposed a motion to this effect: "That this House condemns the National Parole Board and the Solicitor-General for this vivid illustration that there exists one law for the rich, powerful friends of the Liberal Government and another law for the poor." We would propose a few questions of our own: What deterrence will the treatment given Mr. Cooper and Mr. McNamara have for other businessmen tempted to abuse the public's trust? What does it say for the system's view of the seriousness of the offences, or the magnitude of the sums of money involved? How many other people are offered the chance to take a vacation outside the jurisdiction while on parole?

Mr. Robinson has raised an important alarm. He, and the public in general, deserve a full explanation from the Government.

Gary Bryant
Chairman J.H.S.

Screened By: Publication Committee
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CENSOR

he powerful get no special leave says parole official

The following are letters to the editor of The Globe and Mail.

Your editorial Privileged Parole (April 28) implies that the National Parole Board decides when an inmate is eligible for parole. The board decides if an inmate is to be released when he becomes eligible; the law and, in certain cases, the courts, set the date of possible release, not the board. Sydney Cooper and Harold McNamara were by law eligible for parole and the board, taking into account that they were first-time, non-violent offenders and that their release plans were sustained by excellent community support, decided to release them.

Ever since the 1899 Ticket of Leave Act, the question of political interference in parole decisions has been investigated, notably by the Archambault Commission (1938) and the Fauteux Committee (1956). To suggest that "powerful friends of the Liberal Government" receive special treatment and that there is a law for the poor and another for the rich, is completely contrary to fact.

The opprobrium attached to Mr. Cooper and Mr. McNamara during their trial and incarceration is the greatest deterrent to this type of non-violent crime. Releases on any

type of parole are restricted by specific conditions. As a consulting engineer and chairman of the building committee of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto since 1978, Mr. Cooper was, in this rare instance, allowed to travel outside of his designated area for professional reasons.

The National Parole Board, in releasing Mr. Cooper and Mr. McNamara, is not condoning their crimes. All we are saying is that deserving, not privileged, inmates should be given the opportunity to return to society to lead productive and law-abiding lives.

W. R. Outerbridge
National Parole Board
Ottawa

Gary Bryant
Chairman J.H.S.

Thankyou for this very warming, touching and sincere explanation of why the privileged parole was granted. No one can ever say that these men did not deserve this rare instance and I'm sure my fellow inmates are not objecting to the happening. But what we would like to see, everyone treated equal in these places with the same opportunity that these men have had.

Ed Diakew
Co-Chairman
John Howard Society
Collins Bay

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CENSOR

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" You have the right to remain
Silent "

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To:

Ms. Cathy Mathews
Centre of Criminology
Library University of Toronto
130 George St.
Toronto, Ont.

"You have the right to remain
silent"